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DELAET BLOOMER

HE'S PAID HIS DUES. NOW GRAHAM DELAET, THE PRIDE OF WEYBURN, SASK., HAS HIS FIRST CHANCE AT THE BRITISH OPEN

PAGE 12

A 'sad and tragic accident'

Glee actor Cory Monteith overdosed on a toxic mix of heroin and alcohol, a coroner has found PAGE 5

Curb your enthusiasm, cyclists

As police crack down on sidewalk bikers, Londoners are divided on the issue PAGE 2

The horror! The horror!

The new haunted-house movie The Conjuring is full of heart-stopping, bone-chilling scares. Bring it on and more, says Metro's Richard Crouse PAGE 7

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Toddler left in hot car

Police investigation. Child and pet dog passed health check after rescue

SCOTT TAYLOR
scott.taylor@metronews.ca

The mother of a toddler left in a steamy car for more than 30 minutes could face charges, London police said Tuesday.

Officers were called to a parking lot at Richmond Street and Fanshawe Park Road at about 3:30 p.m. on Saturday when the outdoor temperature, according to Environment Canada records, was 26 C.

Const. Ken Steeves said police arrived to find a two-year-old boy inside the car. Both front windows of the vehicle were partially open, but the boy was obviously sweating.

Police freed the toddler, who was examined by paramedics. The boy was not physically harmed, but police did contact Child and Family Services from the scene. A dog left in the vehicle appeared to be healthy.

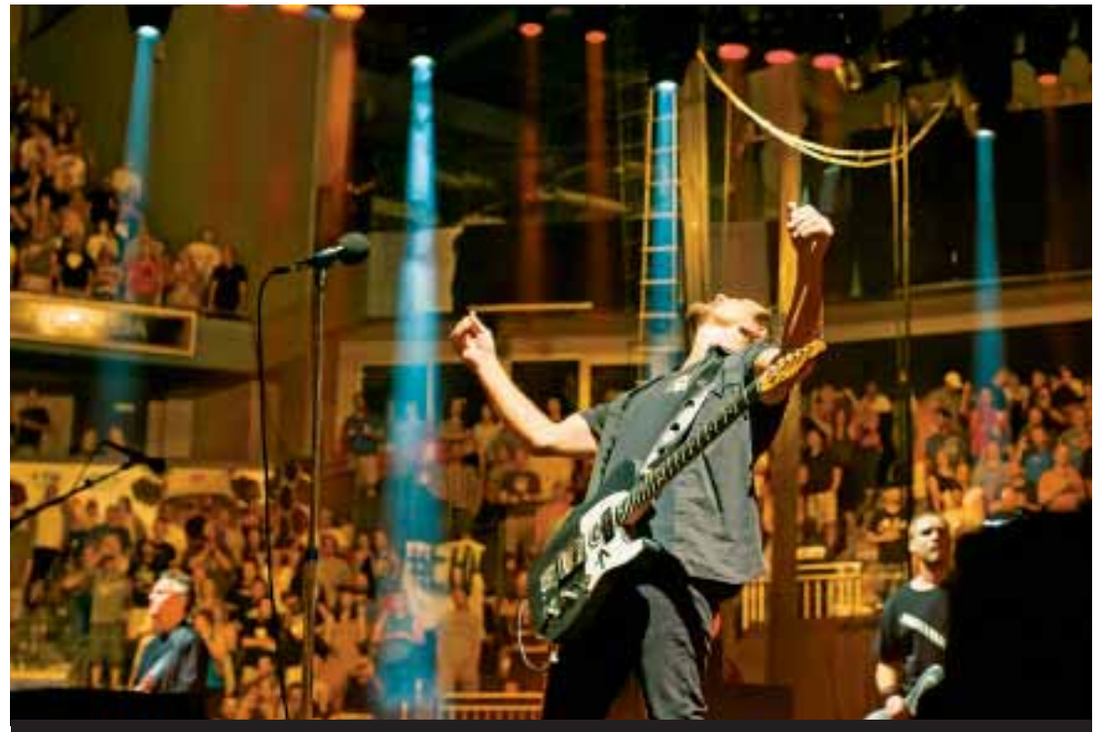
Police are continuing their investigation.

One day later in Oakville, an angry crowd berated a man for leaving his nine-month-old daughter inside a sweltering car while he went inside a Home Depot for 10 to 15 minutes.

The man, who is from Toronto, has since been charged with child abandonment, The Canadian Press reported Tuesday.

The grandmother of a Milton toddler was charged with criminal negligence causing death and failing to provide the necessities of life after the child, left alone in a sweltering car, died this month.

Police urge people to call 911 if they see children or pets locked in vehicles, especially during a heat wave.



JAMMIN' AT BUD GARDENS

Eddie Vedder, lead singer of rock group Pearl Jam, performs to a sold-out crowd at Budweiser Gardens on Tuesday. The show was the only Canadian date and just the second stop in North America on the band's current tour. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

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Twitter

Metro London hit the Twitterverse asking: "Should cyclists be allowed to ride on sidewalks?" Here are some of the passionate responses:

@fowgre:
No. There's too many reckless sidewalk cyclists, which puts pedestrians at risk, and virtually no police enforcement.

@JClarkey:
Not. They belong on the roads. It is called a sideWALK.

@phrawr:
on busy streets, yes. I would not like to get hit by a driver who isn't paying attention that drives in the bike lane.

@jaelyn_cross:
Absolutely not! They don't even have the sense to say excuse me when they go barreling past you. I'm not a target jerkholes!

@jzadorsky24:
yes, where there are no paths. Car hits rider its fatal. Rider hit pedestrian, some minor injuries. #lesserevil

@eh_c:
Yes, but pedestrians have right of way, cyclists liable for at-fault accidents. Need to share sidewalks for safety. #LdnOnt

@maxamilli:
On very busy streets it can be very intimidating, so as long as bikers are conscious of walkers I think it should be okay.

@eShepperd:
As a cyclist, no sidewalk. Most cycling accidents happen entering/leaving roadway. On sidewalk, happens every intersection!

Police statistics show more people are being cited for ignoring a city bylaw that pushes cyclists to the street. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Don't go down the wrong path, cyclists

Crackdown on sidewalk riders. Police have more than doubled their tickets

SCOTT TAYLOR
scott.taylor@metronews.ca

Some people may feel they're forever dodging them, but London police insist they've cracked down on sidewalk cyclists this year.

Don't believe it?

The results, it seems, speak for themselves.

From Jan. 1 to July 16 last year, police issued 153 tickets for cycling on the sidewalk. In the same time period this year, however, they've handed out 330 citations — an increase of 116 per cent.

Meanwhile, collisions involving cyclists and vehicles this year have dropped to 49 from 88 last year in the same time span. It must be noted, though, that an early, warm spring in 2012 allowed countless pedal pushers to get an early start, while 2013 was mostly cool and wet until late May.

Still, it's a 44 per cent decrease.

The city's bylaw is clear on what cyclists can and cannot do on roads. No one 14 years and older is allowed to ride on city sidewalks, though many still do. And, it can be dangerous, said Sgt. Ryan Scrivens with the police service's traffic management unit.

The cost

$140

That's the fine cyclists face if caught riding on the sidewalk.

"Riding a bicycle on a sidewalk can often pose dangerous conditions for pedestrians and influence the actions of other drivers, as they are expecting cyclists to be on the road," he said.

A tragic example played out Friday when a 45-year-old man riding a bike on the sidewalk was killed after colliding with a city bus when veering onto the street. The incident happened at Hamilton Road and Smith Street.

Scrivens said police use a multi-pronged strategy to keep wayward cyclists in line.

"We utilize both education and enforcement to ensure compliance with the laws, as they relate to all modes of travel," he said.

Teen crash victim moved to London a week ago

The 17-year-old girl killed as she sprinted across a London street for a city bus has been identified as Josie Ainsworth.

She moved to London from Almonte, just west of Ottawa, a week ago to attend college, a family member said.

Police haven't officially identified Ainsworth, but friends posting on Facebook were expressing shock and sadness about her death on Tuesday.

Brittani Mai-Gayton posted: "Rest in peace, darlin'. You were so beautiful."

Ainsworth was hit by a beige Honda Civic shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday at Adelaide Street North and Fanshawe Park Road East. She died in hospital Monday evening.

Police are still investigating the crash, but have said the Civic crossed the intersection on a green light and won't be charged. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Josie Ainsworth FACEBOOK

Safety. OPP issues warning in wake of fatal motorcycle crash

Ontario Provincial Police are asking people to check their mirrors and blind spots frequently after five crashes involving motorcycles in less than two weeks.

The most recent crash killed a motorcyclist early Tuesday at Carriage and Littlewoods roads in Middlesex Centre, southwest of London. The crash, which involved three vehicles, was reported at about 6:45 a.m.

Motorcyclists have died in four of the five crashes reported since July 4. Only two of the crashes were attributed to error on the part of the person riding the motorcycles, police say.

"Regrettably and regardless of who is at fault, drivers of motorcycles usually end up with serious injuries or are killed during collisions," the OPP said in a statement.

METRO

Ontario. Ombudsman takes health, transpo ministries to task

Ontario's ombudsman is warning the governing Liberals that unless they live up to their promise to protect patients by regulating non-emergency medical transfers soon, he'll be forced to re-open his investigation of the industry.

About 400,000 people are transported every year in privately owned vehicles, ombudsman Andre Marin said Tuesday. But nothing's been done to regulate the sector for two years.

"Some of these vehicles, parts are flying off them. We have patients falling off gurneys. It's a question of time before there is a major catastrophe," he said after releasing his annual report.

Marin said he agreed not to publish his report in 2011 after Premier Kathleen Wynne — then transportation minister — and Health Minister Deb Matthews agreed that it needed to be regulated. The coroner has been asking for regulation since 1995, he said.

Ontario ombudsman Andre Marin
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

He recently reminded Wynne of her promise, he said. But Transportation Minister Glen Murray wasn't even aware of the report.

"Since 1995, the government has a history of panicking when the issue comes up — when there's a crash and someone gets injured or someone gets killed," Marin said.

"And then as soon as the media fades, the government's interest stalls in changing the legislation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MMMBop. Western Fair District gets its hands on Hanson as headliners

Expect a little MMMBop'ing at the Western Fair District this fall.

Hanson — the Oklahoma brothers turned boy-band sensation in the mid-1990s — will headline this year's free concerts during the Western Fair.

The fair opens Sept. 6, featuring Hanson, and continues through Sept. 15. METRO

Some other performers

- Victoria Duffield and Fefe Dobson (Sept. 7)
- Loverboy (Sept. 8)
- Lights (Sept. 10)
- The Mavericks ((Sept. 14)

Giant hogweed is here, and it burns

Can cause blindness.

To kill alien invader, chop off head, tie in a plastic bag and leave to bake in the sun

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

It'll burn your skin and could leave you blind.

It's an alien invader that poisons people and hides in the ground for up to 10 years.

It's giant hogweed, it's a serious health hazard and it's right here in the middle of London, with plants confirmed near the Forks of the Thames.

The Thames River conservation authorities have issued a warning to stay away from the invasive plant. The clear, watery sap that oozes from giant hogweed contains toxins that can cause inflammation and, if the skin is exposed to the sun, severe burns.

Symptoms occur within 48 hours and, depending on the person, can last for months, turning into blisters and even scars. Eye contact with the sap has been known to cause blindness.

Skin can remain sensitive to ultraviolet light for years, experts say.

Brandon Williamson, land management technician for the Upper Thames Conservation Authority, issued a stern warning: "Do not go near or touch the plant under any circumstances."

Getting rid of the weed can be a nightmare.

In the spring, Williamson said, a herbicide spray will do it, but mature plants in July and August are the real monsters. The seeds stay viable for five to 10 years unless they are cleared.

"They will have a flower and seed-head top," he said. "You have to cut the seed head off, put it in a plastic bag and leave it in the sun to bake for 72 hours. You cannot burn it and you cannot compost it. You have to prevent it from germinating."

Follow Mike Donachie on Twitter @Mike_Donachie

Where it is

- Several plants have been spotted near Highbury Avenue along the Thames River.
- There are a handful of confirmed plants along the Forks of the Thames.
- Small patches have been seen near the Thames in Dorchester.
- Large patches have sprouted between St Marys and Mitchell.
- It was first seen in the area about five years ago.

Giant hogweed, pictured here, can grow up to 16 feet tall with large slightly dome-shaped flowers and seed heads. The leaves can be up to three feet wide and are shaped like an exaggerated maple leaf.
JOE PERREIRA/COURTESY ONTARIO INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

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News in pictures

1 Egypt. Seven more die in clashes

A supporter of Egypt's ousted president tries to beat the heat. Clashes overnight left at least seven dead, authorities said Tuesday. NASSER SHIYOUKHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Russia. Pussy Riot back at it

Russian band Pussy Riot have released their first music video since three members went to prison last year. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Gay rights. Activist slaughtered

Prominent gay-rights activist Eric Ohena Lembembe has been tortured and killed in Cameroon, Human Rights Watch said. ERASING 76 CRIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 NSA scandal. Snowden stuck

Ecuador's Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said his nation hopes Russia will grant Edward Snowden temporary asylum, saying conditions do not permit his travel to Latin America. RODRIGO BUENDIA, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

5 India floods. Thousands missing

More than 5,700 people missing since floods devastated northern India last month are being presumed dead, top officials said Tuesday. ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No way to convict Zimmerman: Juror

The six-woman jury ultimately voted to acquit a neighbourhood-watch volunteer in the killing of an unarmed black teenager after closely examining the law, a juror in the case said Monday.

George Zimmerman was charged with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin last year, but the jury was also allowed to consider manslaughter.

The woman, known as Juror B37, told CNN's Anderson Cooper that when the jury began deliberations Friday, they took an initial vote. Three jurors — including B37 — were in favour of acquittal, two supported manslaughter and one backed second-degree murder. She said the jury started going through all the evidence, listening to tapes multiple times.

"That's why it took us so long," said B37.

When they started looking at the law, the person who initially wanted second-degree murder changed her vote to manslaughter, the juror said. Then they asked for clarification from the judge and went over it again and again. B37 said some jurors wanted to find Zimmerman guilty of something, but there was just no place to go based on the law.

B37 said jurors cried when they gave their final vote to the bailiff.

The interview came two days after Zimmerman's acquittal in the shooting death of Martin in a gated community in Sanford, Fla., where the teenager was visiting family. Martin was black, and Zimmerman identifies himself as Hispanic. While prosecutors accused Zimmerman of profiling Martin, Zimmerman maintained he acted in self-defence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vigils, rallies planned

100

Civil rights leaders said Tuesday they are planning vigils and rallies in 100 U.S. cities this weekend to press the federal government to bring charges against George Zimmerman.

From a self-imposed exile, train engineer talks through lawyer

Lac-Mégantic disaster. Lawyer dispels claim that Tom Harding is under 'police control'

The train engineer at the centre of the Lac-Mégantic disaster investigation is emotionally "devastated" by the tragic event, his lawyer says.

Tom Harding has vanished from public sight, and his lawyer's comments Tuesday shed some light on how he has responded to the tragedy.

Lawyer Thomas Walsh said his client has been staying at an undisclosed location, on his advice, to avoid the constant barrage of journalists at his Eastern Townships home.

Walsh said he's hoping to get Harding psychological help.

Edward Burkhardt, the head of the rail company, had told reporters last week that his engineer was under "police control" as the subject of a criminal investigation.

"Nothing (of the sort)," Walsh said Tuesday. He said Harding has not been arrested or charged with any crime stemming from the accident.

"He's talking through his hat, as far as I can see."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Role in accident

Tom Harding's role is a central question in the tragedy. His own company called him a hero before announcing his suspension.

- He is also named as one of the defendants in an attempted class-action suit.
- One question is whether the veteran railman applied the appropriate number of hand-brakes before ending his shift.

A fireman walks through debris Tuesday at the site of the train derailment and fire in Lac-Mégantic, Que., that left 37 people confirmed dead and another 13 missing and presumed dead. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

France

Neo-Nazi arrested over terrorism fears

A Norwegian black metal musician and alleged sympathizer of mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik was arrested Tuesday on what French authorities say was suspicion he could be planning "a large terrorist act."

The Paris prosecutor's office identified the suspect as Varg Vikernes, a neo-Nazi who earned notoriety in the 1990s after he was convicted for manslaughter in the stabbing of a fellow band member and for arson attacks on three churches.

Vikernes' wife, Marie Cachet, was also arrested, the prosecutor's office said. She had recently acquired four rifles, the interior ministry said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Kingdom

Cops sorry for using names of dead kids

Britain's top policeman has apologized for using the names of dead children to help establish false identities for undercover work.

A report published Tuesday revealed that the names of 42 dead children — born between 1940 and 1975 — had been used by police.

Metropolitan Police Chief Bernard Hogan-Howe says he is sorry for the "shock and offence" the tactic caused.

The report indicates that security services may also have used names of the dead.

The report says that families have not been told because that would put undercover agents at risk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mix of heroin and alcohol killed Monteith: Coroner

Vancouver. Actor's death last weekend deemed an accident

Glee star Cory Monteith spent his last evening out on the town with three friends before returning to his luxury Vancouver hotel room alone where he took heroin and died early Saturday morning, police and a coroner say.

"There's absolutely nothing, no evidence to suggest this is anything other than the most sad and tragic accident," coroner Barb McLintock said in a news release after her office concluded an autopsy and toxicology tests.

She said the coroners' investigation will continue. Police say the unanswered questions McLintock's office will determine include the levels of alcohol and heroin in Monteith's system and whether the 31-year-old star was the victim of a bad batch of heroin, something which turns up from time to time in Vancouver.

But Const. Brian Montague said the police investigation is finished.

He said the two women and another man Monteith were with that night co-operated fully with police.

Overdose risks

- Aiyanas Ormand, with the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, a group that advocates for better public policy around illicit drugs, said seasoned heroin users would "taste" the drug first, meaning they would inject a small amount and get a sense of it.
- "Often where you get people OD-ing, it's with less experienced users or folks who have been in jail or detox and their body was once accustomed to much larger doses.... It can be deadly," he said.

"We're pretty confident we know where they were or what they were doing the night before," he said.

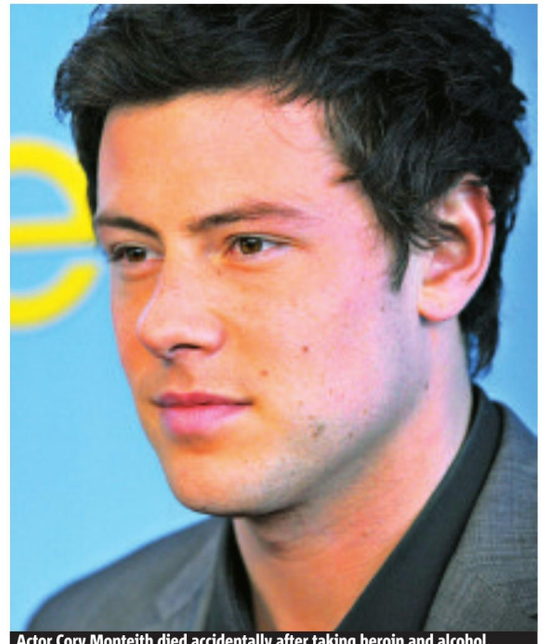
"There were no signs of a struggle or a robbery. There was evidence in the room that was consistent with a drug overdose."

Montague declined to elaborate. He said officers will not be pursuing where Monteith might have gotten the heroin.

Monteith played the role of football player and singer Finn Hudson on the popular television series Glee. Before becoming an actor, he worked as a Walmart people greeter in Nanaimo, B.C., as well as a taxi driver, school-bus driver and roofer.

He also played drummer for the California-based band Bonnie Dune, and was an avid supporter of the Project Limelight Society, a Vancouver charity that offers a theatre program to at-risk youth. His family has requested donations in his name be made to Project Limelight and two other charities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Actor Cory Monteith died accidentally after taking heroin and alcohol, officials say. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Documents. Aboriginals were nutrition test subjects

Recently published historical research says hungry aboriginals were once used as unwitting subjects in nutritional experiments by Canadian government bureaucrats.

Government documents revealed to researcher Ian Mosby a long-standing experiment that came to span the entire country and involved at least 1,300 aboriginals, most of them children.

It began with a 1942 visit by government researchers to remote reserve communities in northern Manitoba.

They found people who were hungry, beggared by the collapsing fur trade and declining government support. They also found a demoralized population marked by, in the words of the researchers, "shiftlessness, indolence, improvidence and inertia."

The researchers suggested those problems were the results of malnutrition.

Instead of recommending more support, the researchers decided that these people would be ideal subjects for tests on the effects of different diets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In this image taken from video, two lionfish are shown in an aquarium at the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach, Fla. Desperate for some kind of control over their populations in the wild, Florida this year enlisted volunteers and amateurs to go after the fish not native to the Atlantic. SUZETTE LABOY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Invasion of the lionfish: Voracious predator spreads

The invasive lionfish that crowds coral reefs and preys on native fish in the Atlantic's shallower waters is such a problem that divers in Florida and the Caribbean are encouraged to capture and eat them whenever they can.

Lionfish, which have venomous spines, are a well-documented problem in Atlantic coral reefs, where the 25 centimetre-long, one pound invaders from the tropical parts of the Pacific and Indian oceans live without predators and eat other fish voraciously. What's slowly coming into view is how deep into the ocean their invasion has spread.

Researchers and wildlife officials worry that lionfish may undo efforts aimed at rebuilding populations of native predators such as groupers and snappers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free-for-all

Divers are encouraged to capture and eat any lionfish they encounter to protect reefs and native marine life already burdened by pollution, over-fishing and the effects of climate change.

A buck a call? CRTC rejects pay phone hike, questions future in smartphone age

Canada's telecom regulator is hanging up on Bell Canada's bid to increase the cost of using a pay phone. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has rejected a request by Bell to charge people more to use coin-operated land lines, a familiar fixture of the pre-cellphone age.

"This is, in our view, a victory for today,'' said Janet Lo, legal counsel for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

"We're very pleased that the commission stood up to Bell's request for the pay phone rate increase, which was in our view not warranted."

The CRTC is also considering whether to take steps to prevent the company from pulling less profitable pay phones out of underserviced communities.

Bell and its subsidiary Bell Aliant Inc. had asked for permission to boost the price of a local call to as much as $1, compared with the current price of 50 cents, and to double the cost of using a credit or debit card at a pay phone to $2.

In their submissions, the companies said that without a rate increase, they would be forced to get rid of their least profitable pay phones. Pay phone usage has been steadily dropping as more people turn to cellphones, Bell argued.

But the CRTC countered by saying unprofitable coin-operated phones would likely end up being removed anyway, regardless of cost. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going the way of the dodo?

The CRTC has launched consultations on the role pay phones play in Canada. The regulator will also ask Canadians whether phone companies should be prohibited from removing the last remaining pay phone in a community.

From print to digital

Sun Media closes papers, cuts jobs

Sun Media Corp. is slashing 360 jobs and shutting down 11 publications across the country, saying it needs to invest more heavily in digital news to lure in younger readers.

In addition to job cuts, the newspaper publisher is closing down eight community newspapers and its 24 Hours free daily papers in Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.47¢ US (+0.45¢)

TSX 12,516.89 (-11.46)

OIL $106 US (-32¢)

GOLD $1,290.40 (+$6.90)

Natural gas: $3.68 (+1¢)
Dow Jones: 15,451.85 (-32.41)

NOT EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY

JUST SAYIN'

Mike Benhaim
Guest columnist

The daily news is filled with reports of racism, sexism, ageism and absurdism, but a large faction of this country's population silently faces a form of discrimination I like to call anti-caninism. That's right, people who hate dogs. You know the type; distinctly anti-social, but ultra-sensitive to child safety, hypothetical allergies or the physically challenged, as long as the disability doesn't require canine assistance.

Wherever dog owners gather, there is inevitably, some scowling curmudgeon hiding in the bushes taking video of puppies peeing on grass. Oh no! Now, we've exposed the children! For centuries, scientists have been mystified by the various causes of disease, but 'Pooch Patrol' has connected it all to dog urine. Parents beware: Your local park has not been sterilized for your kids' protection.

We belong to a culture spoiled by the freedom to dismiss ourselves from all responsibility. Parents use children as the excuse by which to perpetuate their own ignorance, and we spout improperly learned notions as universal truths.

Now, I'm not implying that the enlightened 19-year-old at 7-Eleven is not thoroughly versed in Canadian law but I recently entered one while holding my 10-pound Maltese.

Apparently, just having a dog exempted me from the basic courtesies afforded to the general public, let alone patrons.

"Mister, you can't have that dog in here!" She told me. When I questioned the hostility, she said, "It's against the law." (Gasp!) Am I a criminal now? Naturally, I probed further. "What about service dogs?" Apparently, our crackerjack legal scholar was ill-prepared for such meticulous cross-examination, as she responded with "Huh?" I specified, "What about seeing-eye dogs?"

And it was then that my clever foe truly earned the right to wear that plastic name tag by delivering a stunning rebuttal of "It never happens."

Well then folks, I guess the law is clear. Only it really isn't.

Canada's Animal Pedigree Act prohibits animals from direct contact with food preparation. Beyond that, every province, municipality and establishment owner has their own unique set of rules.

Parks, malls and department stores can legally allow your dogs, only many of them choose not to. One manager actually admitted that it depended largely on personality. That of the dog AND its owners.

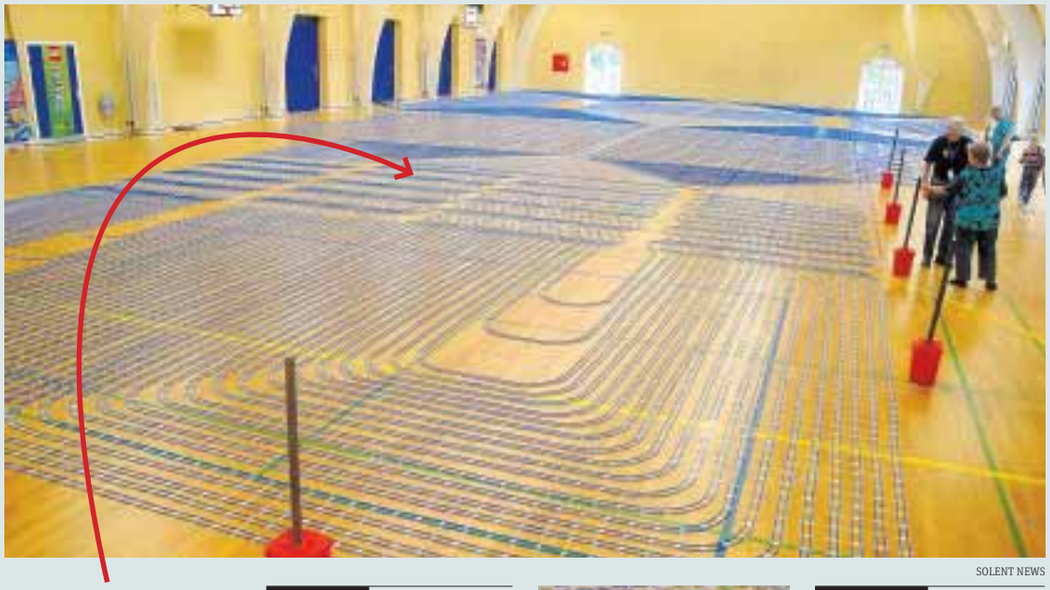
Hound-friendly malls and patios exist throughout Canada, but all it takes one anti-caninite complaint to spoil the show. It's never about them. These are just selfless citizens doing their part to protect the helpless from your vicious Chihuahuas.

Friends, think of dogs as babies. They can be cute, and at times disgusting, but they are part of the population and deserve to share the world with everyone else. So let's exercise a little tolerance and open public places to man's best friend.

Paul Sullivan will return July 31.

ZOOM

They have a proven track record



SOLENT NEWS

Longest Lego train track built

A Lego fan was on the right track when he assembled 93,072 plastic bricks to make the world's longest toy train circuit. Henrik Ludvigsen from Roskilde, Denmark, and a team of 80 others spent 18 months designing the track that measures 4,000 metres, which has earned him a Guinness World Record.

METRO

Lego land

"I was cleaning out a room in our house when I found all my old blue tracks. While my wife was asleep on the couch I went off to surf the Internet and got this crazy idea that I wanted to build the world's longest Lego train track."

Henrik Ludvigsen, 43, technology officer

"I'm proud of what I've achieved. It was a dream come true, a dream founded more than 35 years ago." Ludvigsen spent some $75,000 on the feat. SOLENT NEWS

A long ride

3 hours, 22 minutes

is the time it took for a Lego toy train to complete a lap of the 4,000-metre-long route.

In 1934, Danish toy inventor Ole Kirk Christiansen named his new company Lego, formed from the Danish words "Leg Godt" meaning "play well." In Latin 'lego' means "I study" or "I put together."

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Excellent news! The Zen offered up by Explore.org's livestream of brown bears chilling in an Alaska river last summer is back for another year. Keep that, and perhaps these others, open in a tab for a bit of nature in your workday.

LONDON LOOKS/FLICKR

Puffin Burrow

If your tastes are more avian than ursine, rest easy because the bears aren't the only stars in Explore.org's stable. Get voyeuristic by creeping on a pair of nesting Atlantic puffins off the coast of Maine. (explore.org)

Kitty Cams

OK, fine. This isn't a livestream. But they do have a wildly entertaining first-person collection of noted cat hijinx like peeking in neighbourhood windows, harassing lizards, giving guff to dogs and keeping the stoop possum-free. (kittycams.uga.edu)

Vancouver Aquarium

It's hot. You're stuck at work. Cool off with critters that know how to enjoy the life aquatic. Sea otters, penguins and belugas bring the cute. Jellyfish are standing by in case you need something to synch your Pink Floyd albums to. (vanaqua.org)

Letters

RE: Jenny's Got A View, And I've Got One Too, published July 16

I am neither a fan of The View nor a fan of Jenny McCarthy, however I was surprised and appalled by your opinion of the subject matter of a possible relationship between vaccinations and autism.

My question to you, when you have read your articles to form your opinion around the subject matter of vaccination in relationship to autism, have you considered your sources? Were the surveys that you may have read funded by the pharmaceutical big businesses?

Have you read any articles from parents who noticed a considerable change in their child after a vaccination? Have you completed a thorough investigation? Based on your comments, I expect that you have not.

I believe that vaccinations are meant to help the community at large, and as we all know they have saved us from much disease and heartache. Is it possible that we may need to revisit or review our ingredients or timeline to vaccinations?

I think that it is disrespectful for individuals with no experience or thorough knowledge to make judgements on others based on their experiences just because their experience differs from your own.

Valerie Doyle

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

metro

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Conjuring up a number of familiar horror themes

New movie.
Supernatural flicks aren't anything new but the creepy cranks continue to kill at the box office and on screen

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The Conjuring has some spooky stunts. HANDOUT

The Conjuring, the new film from Saw co-creator James Wan, plays like a mash-up of The Exorcist and a particularly spooky episode of Ghost Hunters. Based on true events, it follows one of the most devilishly famous cases of real life paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren.

The ghostly action begins when the Warrens (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga), self described "demonologists, ghost hunters … and kooks," are called in to investigate the haunting of a rambling old farm house purchased by the Perron family, Roger (Ron Livingston) and Carolyn (Liv Taylor) and their five daughters.

The house is creepy. Doors slam, someone or something gooses the girls while they sleep, clocks stop at 3:07 precisely and the smell of rotten meat hangs in the air.

It's spooky stuff, but it's not the only supernatural case the Warrens investigated that went on to find notoriety on the big screen.

The Haunting in Connecticut breathes the same air as The Town that Dreaded Sundown, Death Tunnel or any movie involving evil spirits, a haunted house, an old aboriginal cemetery or former insane asylum.

The film takes its story from the much documented life experience of Carmen Snedeker and her family who were tormented by evil forces after moving into a reconverted funeral home in Southington, Connecticut.

In the real life 1986 case the Warrens were called in and declared the Snedeker house to be crawling with demons, the result of former funeral home workers practicing necrophilia on the site.

How accurate was the movie?

"I was also told about scratching on the walls, blood and seances," Lorraine Warren told MyRecordJournal.com. "That isn't the type of things that were occurring within the house at all. The movie is very, very loosely based on the actual investigation."

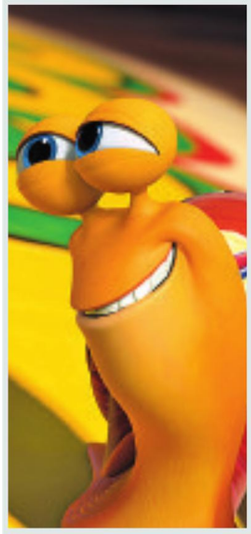
The eerie couple's most notorious inquiry occurred at 112 Ocean Avenue in Amityville, Long Island.

The paranormal experiences of the Lutz family, who claim to have been terrorized by supernatural forces after moving into a large Dutch Colonial house where Ronald DeFeo, Jr. shot and killed six members of his family, came to be known as The Amityville Horror.

It has been the subject of 10 movies, a number of books and was a memorable case for Lorraine Warren.

"The case itself has affected our personal lives more than any other case we've ever worked on in 54 years of research," she said.

Animated



Turbo

Director. David Soren

Stars. Ryan Reynolds, Paul Giamatti and Samuel L. Jackson

Ryan Reynolds voices Turbo, a snail obsessed with car racing. His need for speed is fulfilled after inhaling engine fumes that rev up his metabolism to the tune of 200 m.p.h., a talent that earns him a spot at the Indianapolis 500. The movie is amiable, with beautiful animation and great voice work from Paul Giamatti and Samuel L. Jackson. Too bad it's saddled with a dullish script that's as uninteresting as escargot without garlic and butter. It feels padded with music and montages and moves at a snail's pace, which seems like it should be appropriate for this movie, but really isn't.

RICHARD CROUSE

Documentary

Venus and Serena documentary

Director. Maiken Baird, Michelle Major

Stars. Venus Williams, Serena Williams

In this frank and compelling documentary, filmmakers Maiken Baird and Michelle Major follow Venus and Serena Williams throughout the 2011 tennis season — a year plagued with health and personal problems — and provide a glimpse into the aging titans' struggle to sustain top titles.

Candid interviews cover dating prospects, dysfunctional family relationships, experiences of racism and more, while reminding audiences of the extraordinary impact the Williams sisters have had on the sport.

Ultimately, tennis fans or not, it's easy to appreciate this rare and comprehensive look into the private lives of world-class athletes.

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Jane Lynch explains low-key divorce

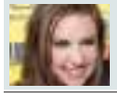
Jane Lynch wants to make it clear that while she is in fact divorcing wife Lara Embry, the split is not as big of a deal as tabloid reports have made it out to be. "It's not dramatic. It's not a horrible thing. It's something that we're dealing with," Lynch tells Larry King in an interview. "It's two people who just decided it's better to go apart than stay together."

Jane Lynch

Twitter

@RedHourBen
Making sure to sit on couch at least 2 hours today so my muscles wont be shocked by the rest day.

@justinbieber
It isn't just about music & performing 2 me. I care about all of u. I want to make the world better with this gift. Thought u should know :)


@lenadunham
My therapist is looking goooood.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Fergie ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Fergie looking to change both of her names

Just in time for the arrival of her first child with husband Josh Duhamel, Fergie is reportedly looking to change both of her names. The pop singer filed a petition in L.A. to legally change her full name from Stacy Ann Ferguson to Fergie Duhamel, since Fergie is "the first name which she is commonly and professionally known as, and has been for many years," the petition states, according to E! News. But she'll have to wait until Aug. 16 to find out if the court is cool with it.

The Word

Kristen Stewart is not grimacing with Michael Pitt

Too-cool-for-school couple Kristen Stewart and Michael Pitt probably aren't sighing loudly while they attempt to gather the enthusiasm to have sex with one another.

Rumours swirled earlier in the week that Stewart may have found a new leading man in former Boardwalk Empire star Michael Pitt since meeting at Paris Fashion Week.

"Kristen's not over Rob but she's getting there, and Michael's helping her through it," a source tells The Sun.

"She vowed to throw herself into work and be single this summer, but when she met Michael last week, they hit it off." And the two apparently have a lot in common, according to the source: "They both hate the spotlight and are smart bookworm types."

But not so, says Pitt's rep, telling E! News, "While we do not comment on our clients' personal lives, please know that there is absolutely no truth whatsoever to this rumour that Michael Pitt and Kristen Stewart are dating." PAT HEALY

CREATING A FUTURE WITHOUT BREAST CANCER

CIBC RUN FOR THE CURE
METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

YOU CAN RUN FOR A CURE ON OCT. 6

These are the facts: One in nine Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. And this year, 23,800 will be told they have the disease.

It's startling at first glance, but it shouldn't be when you consider that breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis in women in this country.

However, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-Ontario Region is at the forefront of a nationwide movement to mobilize action on this disease. Since it was founded in 1986, CBCF-Ontario has raised more than $93 million and funded more than 600 projects. And it's having an impact; since the 1980s, there has been a nearly 40 per cent decrease in the breast cancer mortality rate.

The main way these important funds are raised is through the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure, which is taking place across Canada, including 30 communities in Ontario, on Oct. 6. It's the largest single-day event in support of the breast cancer cause.

"The funds raised are dedicated to research, health education and advocacy programs that will help lower the incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer," says Sandra Palmaro, the CEO of CBCF-Ontario.

Fundraising for the CIBC Run for the Cure has launched innovative and relevant research that is improving screening techniques to detect tumours early. As well, a one-time, one-hour form of radiation therapy has been discovered to replace five weeks of daily treatment.

"We're changing the landscape of what is known about breast cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment," Palmaro says. "The research we invest in addresses every aspect of the disease."

For more or to sign up, please visit runforthecure.com or call 866-373-6313.

– Jane Doucet

TONY HOFFMANN PHOTO

RUN FOR THE FUTURE
• A FUTURE WITHOUT BREAST CANCER •
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Looking for a Placid time?

Family fun. Lake Placid mixes natural beauty and a laid-back vibe to make the perfect getaway for stressed out city dwellers

KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

AuSable Chasm offers some spectacular views. KATHY BUCKWORTH/METRO

Busy families looking to unwind, unplug and undo their daily demands will instantly appreciate the aptly titled Lake Placid, with calm waters showcasing a shoreline dotted with "Great Camps", built in a bygone era when wealthy families from New York City hauled their families up north to escape the city heat and bask in the beautiful mountains of the Adirondacks.

The town of Lake Placid has a '50s feel to it, partly because of the protected park status, and partly because the town embraces the quirky feel of a mountain holiday, year round. It's hard to travel more than 100 feet down the main street, or anywhere in the surrounding area, without tripping over an Adirondack chair (which Ontarians call Muskoka Chairs).

Built five years ago very much in the style of the Great Camps, the luxurious Lake Placid Lodge has become the place to stay, with celebrities and other New York notables on their preferred customer list. The Artisan Restaurant has also become the "unofficial country club" of the many wealthy camp/luxury homeowners in the area. An award winning chef and meticulous attention to detail (not to mention a world class mixologist at the bar) combine to make an extravagant dining experience.

There is a form of accommodation to fit every preference and budget.

The town and surrounding villages offer fun B&B's full of local character, like Nan and Red LaFountaine's Paradox Lodge, which features birch bark ceilings and uniquely local antiquities. Cozy bedrooms feature modern bathrooms and a wonderful family cottage feel. The Lodge backs onto a bay leading into the lake, and Red's homestyle breakfasts are the perfect start to a busy day getting out to the many outdoor adventures available.

The restaurants and bars are as diverse as the lodgings, with the Brown Dog Café, a popular favourite, featuring fantastic views of Mirror Lake, where diners can watch the sun go down as canoers and kayakers glide by. During the day, it's easy to grab a fresh deli sandwich at The Little Super Market and head down to the local beach on Lake Everest in Wilmington.

If you go...

Lake Placid is located about a five-hour drive from Toronto. Visit lakeplacid.com for more information.

A short drive away, the covered bridge in Jay (rebuilt in 2007) represents the rich history of the area, and the flat rocks that the AuSable River flows over make it the perfect spot to cool off on a hot day.

But it's not all calm in this area of the Adirondacks. During the winter it is the destination of choice for adventurous skiers and snowboarders, anxious to recreate runs they watched during the 1980 Olympics on Whiteface Mountain, and in the summer the hills are taken over by warrior gangs of mountain bikers. The base area around Whiteface, also with protected status, remains untouched by the usual array of condominiums, hotels, bars and restaurants, for a true mountain experience.

The AuSable Chasm is about an hour's drive from Lake Placid, and the spectacle of the chasm is as awesome as the Adventure Trail that's been developed.

Cable pulls, rappelling and swaying bridges are for the brave of heart. The Intermediate Trail offers a terrific mix of easy strolling and heart stopping rock wall scaling.

The Wild Centre is a great stop to make on the way to or from Lake Placid, situated in Lake Tupper. This 31-acre wildlife conservation area will have the kids entertained with more than 900 live animals.

In the heart of Lake Placid, Olympic Center is home to two arenas, both famous in their own right. The figure skating arena was the site where Sonja Henie won gold during the 1932 Olympics, and the hockey arena is home to the legendary Miracle on Ice match between the Americans and the USSR. A quick look at the wall plaque reveals that the 1980 Olympics were also the year speed skater Eric Heiden won 5 gold medals and Canadian Gaetan Boucher won a silver medal.

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One-dish pasta gets you out of that hot kitchen quickly

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

This is a great one-dish meal that's perfect for a quick dinner. Have a large leafy salad to start. If you want a more savoury flavour, use spicy sausage.

1. Cook pasta in boiling water according to package instructions or until firm to the bite. Drain and place in serving bowl.

2. In large non-stick skillet, heat oil; sauté garlic, onions, green peppers and zucchini until tender, approximately 5 minutes.

3. Add sausage and beef; sauté just until cooked, approximately 10 minutes.

4. Add tomatoes, olives, basil and oregano; simmer for 15 minutes, until sauce thickens, stirring occasionally. Pour over pasta, and toss.

ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT PASTA (ROBERT ROSE) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 12 oz radiatore or penne
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 tsp crushed garlic
- 3/4 cup chopped onions
- 3/4 cup chopped sweet green peppers
- 2 cups chopped zucchini
- 6 oz sweet sausages, skinned and chopped
- 6 oz ground beef
- 2 1/2 cups canned or fresh tomatoes, crushed
- 1/3 cup sliced black olives
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried oregano

Radiatore with Sweet Sausage, Zucchini and Tomatoes

This recipe serves eight. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT PASTA (ROBERT ROSE)

Drink of the Week

Lavender Sour

Beat the heat with this exquisite blend of flavours, including lime juice, lavender bitters and egg whites.

- 1.5 oz Belvedere vodka
- 0.6 oz fresh lime juice
- 3/4 oz simple syrup
- 0.3 oz egg whites
- 2 dashes of lavender bitters

Dry shake then add ice and shake again. Strain into chilled martini glass and garnish with an expressed lemon twist.

PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY OF BELVEDERE VODKA

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Sweeping up the dirt on your desktop

A site to see. Keeping your online persona pristine is as important as ironing your shirt on interview day

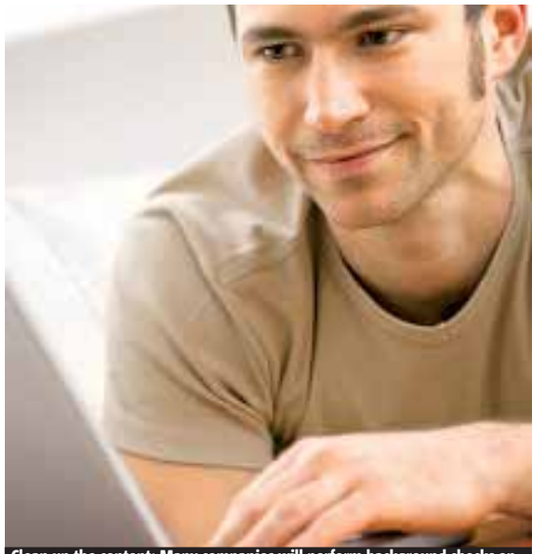
ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

Remember that post you liked on your friend's timeline last week? It could have been a totally innocuous link of 32 must-see cute animal pictures or it could have been a slightly compromising picture of you in the hours that proceeded happy hour. Either way, you've left a data trail that people will be able to see for years to come.

No, this isn't the work of an expert Facebook user. It's a reality that job seekers with an online presence must become familiar with if they wish to succeed in their job hunt.

According to a survey by McAfee it seems that people are worried about their online personas.

In fact, 46 per cent of 18-to-34-year-olds polled were concerned about how they look online.



Clean up the content: Many companies will perform background checks on potential employees to check if they will represent the brand in a professional manner. ISTOCK

Brenda Moretto, Canadian Consumer Manager at McAfee, said that a poor digital reputation could hurt a new graduate in their job hunt in a number of ways.

"Job markets are competitive and anyone looking for a job needs every advantage they can have," Moretto said, adding that this means that job seekers definitely don't want to have anything negative in their digi-trail.

If a potential employer saw something unsavoury on an applicant's Facebook page or other online profile, Moretto said this could lead to the applicant not getting the job.

"If I'm an employer then I'm looking for someone who is going to represent my brand," she said.

"If they had a negative digital footprint then it wouldn't be aligned," Moretto said.

16 per cent of people polled knew someone who had been fired because of a personal image or message posted online.

People are constantly on smartphones and aren't posting pictures of each other volunteering or studying as much as they are of their friends in a compromising position.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

E-mpressive!

Brenda Moretto suggested four tips that McAfee developed in the hopes of keeping online profiles of job-seeking generations appropriate for landing their dream job:

- **Polish it:** Treat your online presence as well as you would your resumé. You never know who might be looking you up.
- **Secure it:** Try to manage what others can see online. Don't forget that whatever your or your friends "like" on Facebook, for example, stays there for everyone else to see. Remember that even if your profile is as secure as secure can be and you've changed your name to make yourself unsearchable, you still have Facebook friends, Twitter followers or LinkedIn connections that can see everything you do. What will happen if your relationship with one of these people turns sour? Be aware of the fact that whatever you put online is available to people that might not always have your best interests at heart.
- **Hold it:** A good rule of thumb to use when deciding whether to put those happy hour pictures online is "is this something I would want my boss, colleagues or grandma to see?" If not, don't post it.
- **Protect it:** Don't share any passwords with your friends. Who knows what they will post. McAfee also discovered that 60 per cent of people store personal or intimate information on their cellphones, but only 40 per cent of people enable password protection on these devices. Punching in a password is a three second task that could save you a lot of money, worry and dignity.

Out of town for the August 1 by-election? You can still vote!

If you live in London West and plan on being out of town on Aug. 1, you can still vote:

- **Today** at your local returning office
- **Anytime before August 1** by mail*
- **July 20-26** at an advance poll

If you wish to vote by mail, call us collect at **416-649-1046** or visit us online.

For the location of your returning office or advance polls in your area, visit our website or call **1-866-325-6241**

Remember, to vote in this by-election, you must be:
- 18 years of age as of August 1, 2013
- A Canadian citizen, and
- A resident of London West

Elections Ontario

For more information, please visit our website **wemakevotingeasy.ca**
Disponible en francais

** Mail ballots must be received by Elections Ontario on or before August 1.*

Graham DeLaet will compete in his first major this week and is the only Canadian who qualified for this year's British Open. MICHAEL COHEN/GETTY IMAGES

DeLaet at home on British Open links

Golf. Lone Canadian at Muirfield undeterred by Scottish climate

Mixed emotions on Muirfield

"I don't know if it's something I want to play every single day; it just eats you up."

Weyburn, Sask., native Graham DeLaet on the unpredictable conditions of the British Open.

Having grown up in Saskatchewan, Graham DeLaet isn't bothered by a little wind on the golf course — and wind surely is among the weather treasures to be found this week at Muirfield.

The cold, slanting rain that tends to arrive at some point during a British Open? He's seen that at home, too.

"We get that, too. But we just go inside," the Weyburn man cracked.

Barely a week after finding out his world ranking had earned him a spot in a major championship for the first time in his promising career, the only Canadian playing here in Gullane this week was greeted in a familiar Scottish way at practice.

"I hit a 5-iron farther than I hit a driver," he said, laughing at the wind that arrives, in varying directions, at each of Muirfield's 18 holes. "But I grew up in Saskatchewan, so it's a pretty average wind for me."

DeLaet arrives with a terrific set of statistics in his back pocket for his tee time Thursday. He's 65th-ranked in the world and leads the PGA Tour in scoring average (69.99) and greens in regulation (72 per cent) and is second in total driving and par-five scoring average. He's knocking on the door of his first win; he hasn't been out of the top 30 in his past seven starts, including third at the Travelers Championship last month, and with more than $1.5 million earned is 28th in cheques cashed.

Ben Curtis nailed a major in his first appearance at the Open 10 years ago, so it can be done, longshot though it is. At least DeLaet comes in with some links golf experience, having played a British Amateur at Royal St. George's and a couple of Dunhill Cups as a pro, including last year.

"You need your imagination and (need to) hit the ball solid. Fairways are going to be key, obviously, staying out of that fescue," he said after playing the front nine at Muirfield. "It's fun. A different style of golf."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL

Kings acquire pesky Carcillo

The Los Angeles Kings have acquired forward Daniel Carcillo in a trade with the Chicago Blackhawks.

Daniel Carcillo
GETTY IMAGES

The Blackhawks, who beat the Kings in the Western Conference final on their way to the Stanley Cup title, received a conditional selection in the 2015 draft.

The 28-year-old Carcillo had two goals and an assist in 23 games this season with Chicago. He had one assist in four playoff games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banned substances

Powell, Simpson trainer under investigation

Former 100-metre world-record holder Asafa Powell, Jamaican teammate Sherone Simpson and their Canadian physical trainer were formally placed under criminal investigation for allegedly violating Italy's doping laws, police said Tuesday.

The move came a day after Italian police confiscated unidentified substances in a raid on the hotel where the trio was staying in the northeastern town of Lignano Sabbiadoro after the athletes tested positive for banned stimulants.

The trainer is Christopher Xuereb of Toronto.

Police were still analyzing the substances seized to determine if they were legal or not. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Union head says PED bans unlikely in 2013

The baseball players' association says any suspensions resulting from the sport's latest drug investigation likely won't be served until next year if the discipline is challenged before an arbitrator.

Union head Michael Weiner expects Major League Baseball will notify the union of its plans for penalties in the next month, and the union will maintain any discipline should not be announced until after a grievance hearing and then only if arbitrator Fredric Horowitz upholds a ban.

"We're going to have a discussion with them. That discussion will include whether or not names of suspended players will be announced publicly," Weiner said Tuesday.

More than a dozen players are under investigation for ties to Biogenesis, a closed anti-aging clinic in Florida linked with the distribution of performance-enhancing drugs. MLB officials have been interviewing players, who have been represented by the union and their own lawyers.

A provision in baseball's drug agreement says discipline can be announced before a hearing if the penalty results from an allegation that became public other than through MLB or a team. Miami New Times published allegations in January, but the union could argue that a penalty results from evidence baseball has gathered rather than the newspaper account. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Tuesday night's MLB All-Star Game.

Alex Rodriguez, seen here during a double-A rehab assignment, is among the players being investigated for PED use. BRADLEY C BOWER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 Mercedes-Benz CLA

Compare

1 Acura TSX
Base price: $36,000

2 Cadillac ATS
Base price: $36,850

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. A new Mercedes for $35,000?! Here it is ...

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

It might be hard to believe, but it appears as though Mercedes-Benz has caught the rest of the automotive world napping.

This fall, the automaker will introduce a front-wheel-drive sedan to North America that almost anyone pining for a loaded-up Honda Accord, Ford Fusion or Toyota Camry can afford. But wait, as TV infomercial hawkers are fond of saying, "there's more". The 2014 CLA's sporty body cladding and other trim makes it appear far from stripped-down basic-transportation, although with a sticker price that's a few ticks below 35 grand, it's priced like one.

Other than being pulled by the front wheels (with all-wheel-drive optional), what's most unusual about the CLA is that it doesn't offer the kind of roomy practicality that's a given when it comes to nearly every mid-size sedan. That's because Mercedes stylists drew their inspiration from the larger CLS-class faux coupe, a low-slung, wind-cheating luxury ride that remains one of the most imitated models on the planet (see Aston Martin Rapide, Volkswagen CC, Audi A7 and Ford Fusion). Things get much simpler when it comes to powertrain offerings.

The first-to-arrive CLA250 that heads here this September from its home base in Hungary comes with a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that produces 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque at an engine speed that's just above idle. This helps propel the car to 100 km/h from rest in a quick 6.7 seconds, as recorded by Mercedes-Benz.

When the launch party has concluded, M-B will ship the CLA45 AMG to North America. This performance model also features a 2.0-litre turbo-four, only the block has been strengthened and a higher-output turbocharger produces nearly twice the boost of the CLA250's. The result is 355 horsepower and 322 pound-feet of torque. The AMG is expected to shorten the CLA's zero-100 km/h times by about two seconds.

Both models use a seven-speed dual-clutch automated manual transmission with paddle shifters, but the AMG adds 4MATIC all-wheel-drive that sends up to 50 per cent of the torque to the rear wheels, as needed. 4MATIC will be included on the CLA250's options list later in the model year.

Already that list is a long one, even though base CLA250 models will arrive with plenty of content, including a sport suspension, Attention Assist that warns the driver should they nod off at the wheel. Collision Prevention Assist warns when a forward collision appears probable and will apply the brakes if the driver doesn't.

Of the various equipment groupings available, the Premium Package is expected to be one of the most popular since it adds dual-zone climate control, heated front seats, auto dimming mirrors, a garage door opener and a premium Harmon-Kardon surround-sound system. Much of this equipment and then some will be added to the CLA45 AMG, but will also be reflected in the car's list price that's expected to nudge the $60,000 mark.

For those with thinner wallets, the $35k Mercedes-Benz CLA250 should do just fine. Its show-stealing shape is practical enough for singles or small families. It might even turn competing sedan marketers into copycats.

Interior & Technology

Both driver and front-seat passenger are treated to greater comfort, but the one discordant note is an infotainment/nav screen that protrudes above the fresh-air vents as if it were an afterthought. You also get plenty of tiny push-button controls to play with that will require practice to master.

Fuel economy

To assist in the fuel-economy department, the CLA250 uses technology that shuts off the engine when the car comes to a stop, such as at a red light. Once the brake pedal is released, the CLA starts right back up.

Design

The CLA's aero design looks are pencil-sharp, but you should think twice if transporting four or more adults is on your agenda. Even though the CLA is physically larger than the previously base C-class sedan, function follows form and the form in this case is a lowered roofline that restricts rear headroom.

DRIVE

Featured Vehicle

NEW 2013 DODGE AVENGER

$125 BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT AMOUNT plus tax & licencing

#43459

Interest rate 3.9%. Term of lease 48 months. Down payment $2900. $0 security deposit.

Lease offer example on a new 2013 Dodge Avenger 3.9% lease APR for a 48 month term. Bi-Weekly payment of $125.00 with $2900.00 down payment or equivalent trade–in. Includes freight and fees and no security deposit required. Lease based on a maximum of 15,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.19/km. Total lease obligation is $17,980. Total due on delivery $3297.00

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Top sedans give the trunk the boot

Autopilot. Making the back of the car discreet, stylish and aerodynamic appears to be the trend in the high-end market

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Darwin's Theory of Evolution not only applies to flora and fauna, but also to automotive design. When an automotive design mutation shows up that aids the survival of a particular model, the mutation is selected to be passed on to the next generation of vehicles.

One such successful mutation we're suddenly seeing passed on to more and more vehicles is the four-door sedan with a "no-trunk look."

Sedans have historically had what designers call a three-box layout; one box for the engine, another box for the occupants, and another box for the trunk. Now we're seeing four-door sedans in a one-box or two-box layout. Trunks are being incorporated into the main box. They no longer have a box of their own. I don't know if that make trunks sad, but we should probably take it easy on them for a while, just to be nice.

Three factors are pushing trunk design in this direction.

Aerodynamics
The higher and shorter you can make the trunk lid, the better it is for aerodynamics, and aerodynamics nets you lots of good stuff, like fuel efficiency and high-speed stability.

Capacity and space efficiency
The long and low trunk stuck on like an appendage, is not as space efficient as a taller, shorter, and squarer trunk that has also expropriated some of the occupant box.

Aesthetics
Four-door sedans with small trunks, like the new Mercedes-Benz CLA, or four-door sedans with a hatch-like lift-up tailgate, like the Audi A7, just look sleeker.

And with this development we have to evolve the terminology as well. Automakers seem disinclined to even call them "sedans," sensing that the term might have too much old-world baggage (in their trunks and elsewhere). Mercedes-Benz refers to the CLS-Class a four-door coupe, and the full name of the A7 is the Audi A7 Sportback.

Commenting on this development in his blog, Luca Ciferri, the European correspondent for the trade publication, Automotive News, mused that, "as these new interpretations of the classic sedan move from being one-offs to full-fledged model lines it is easy to see that we are entering the post-sedan era."

I think it will be an exciting era. Maybe not as exciting as the post-apocalyptic era, you know, the one with all those zombies, but things should be happening.

The Audi A7 coupe's trunk merges into the rest of the vehicle and increase the car's aerodynamic capabilities.

The new Mercedes CLA250 has a very discreet trunk. BOTH PHOTOS HANDOUT

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There are so many positive factors at work in your life that you would be a fool not to set your sights high. Uranus, planet of changes, urges you to be adventurous. But do you really need encouragement?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Not even a Taurus can be confident all the time and there will be times today when you fear the worst. Take a long, hard look at your life but don't change things just because you're feeling low.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will be spreading your opinions over the next 24 hours. Not everyone will agree with you, of course, but because you say it with such confidence it's unlikely they will argue with you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Employers are on your side now, so think how you would like to move up in the world then let them know you are ready. If in doubt, aim to do something completely different to what you usually do.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Travel is very much on the cards today. You don't need to have a specific destination in mind, just get up and go where your fancy takes you and you are guaranteed to have fun.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get your financial house in order. Now is the perfect time to make changes in your cash flow habits. Be aware of how wasteful you have been.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will face challenges today but you don't have to face them alone. Loved ones are always there for you and will stand by your side if you ask. Chances are you will come through unscathed.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Cosmic activity in the work area of your chart means others expect you to deliver. The last thing you want is to let them down. Pace yourself sensibly and get it done.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be in an assertive mood but don't pick fights with people just for fun. It's good to let off steam but it's not good if you end up making enemies of people.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Creative matters will go well today but you must not neglect affairs of the heart. Someone needs to be reminded of your passion and commitment, most likely because you have been a bit distant lately.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have plenty to say and you could cause a bit of friction if you come on too strong. Sometimes it pays to steer clear of facts that others may not want to hear.

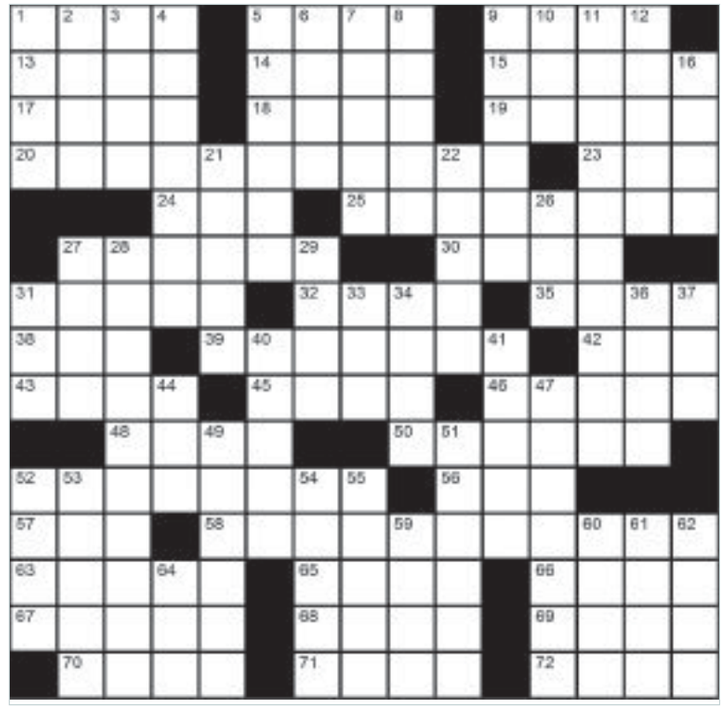
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Positive cosmic activity in the money area of your chart will give you the courage to make much-needed changes. You may have to cut back on luxuries for a week or two.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



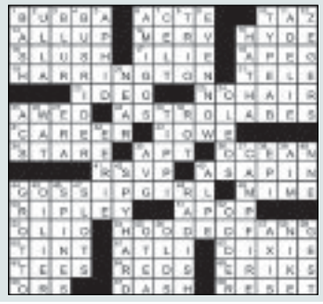
Across

1. Ms. Helgenberger
5. Monsieur Le Pew
9. Valley
13. Mideast chieftain, variantly
14. Q. "Do you prefer FM radio __ _ _?" A. "Both, actually."
15. Verbal tests
17. The Ramayana heroine
18. Certain cracker
19. Surrealist artist Max
20. Toxic clean-up togs: 2 wds.
23. __ casting
24. Gladiator's 1002
25. Glass Tiger lead singer: 2 wds.
27. Strong military city of ancient Greece
30. Decorative case
31. Sound loudly, as a radio
32. Singer/songwriter Lisa
35. Company bosses, collectively [abbr.]
38. Mouth, slang-style
39. Nuclear __
42. Bit of Beatles: "Isn't __ _ bit like..."
43. She sheeps
45. Non-vegetarian fare
46. Band of eight
48. Value
50. Have _ __ of energy
52. Who The Band backed: 2 wds.
56. Riddle-me-__
57. "...am right __ _ am wrong..." - The Beatles
58. __ and Immigration Canada
63. "Blame It __ __" (1984) starring Michael Caine
65. First name letter, e.g.
66. Ms. Reid
67. Celebrity chef Mr. DiSpirito
68. Quash
69. Creams company
70. Subsequently
71. "__ Brockovich"
72. Opposites of ouis

Down

1. Bangers and __ (Pub serving)
2. "What __ _ _ mind reader?"
3. Crackers brand
4. It's about sentences, etc.
5. Sticky notes brand
6. Ancient Greece's love god
7. The Taming of the Shrew setting
8. Internet mode of communication
9. Platinum Blonde hit: "__ Really Matter"
10. ETA part, for short
11. First Nation concern: 2 wds.
12. Vintage dairy products cow
16. Goulash
21. Broadcaster
22. Billy Blanks fitness system: 2 wds.
26. Fee-fi-fo-__
27. Shredded cabbage
28. Alternate name of Saskatchewan's provincial tree: 2 wds.
29. Winglike parts
31. "Adieu."
33. Wood sorrel
34. Songstress Ms. James
36. Encounter
37. Rat-a-__...
40. Ms. Sande of recent hit "Next to Me"
41. 1431: French city where Joan of Arc was executed
44. Down
47. BC locale of Columbia Brewery
49. Mogul
51. Cape __ Island
52. Barbarian
53. 'Ripley's Believe It' finisher: 2 wds.
54. 'Decor' finishing?
55. Ten-er - One-er = What-er?
59. Tube-shaped pasta
60. Beyonce ballad
61. Persia, nowadays
62. Remunerations
64. Drink chiller

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		2	5			9		
1	3			7	8			
7			1				4	
9				1				3
		3				6		
5				2				7
	8				6			5
			4	9			8	6
		1			7	2		

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	1	7	6	5	8	4	9
9	6	5	2	4	8	3	1	7
4	7	8	9	1	3	2	5	6
2	9	7	5	3	4	6	8	1
5	1	3	6	8	9	7	2	4
6	8	4	1	2	7	5	9	3
1	5	6	3	9	2	4	7	8
8	3	2	4	7	1	9	6	5
7	4	9	8	5	6	1	3	2

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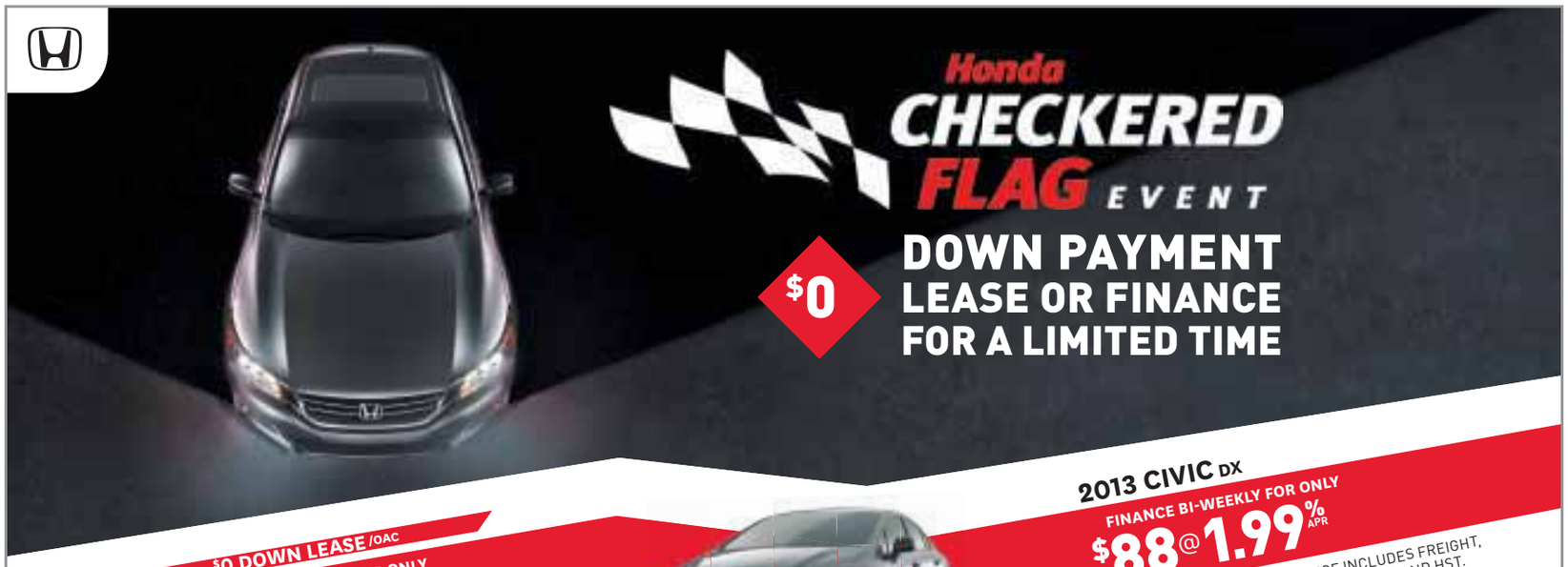

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ΩLimited time lease offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative bi-weekly lease examples: based on a 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) on a 60 // 60 // 60 month term with 130 // 130 // 130 bi-weekly payments at 2.99% // 1.99% // 3.99% lease APR and $0 // $0 // $200 customer incentive and $354 // $0 // $0 individual dealer contribution deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes (customer incentive and dealer contribution can be combined with subvented rates of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program). The bi-weekly payment is $88 // $140.66 // $143.42 (includes $1,495 // $1,640 // $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C levy ($100 except Civic DX), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 // $0 // $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first bi-weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $11,439.80 // $18,285.35 // $18,645.04. 120,000 // 120,000 // 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. †Limited time purchase finance offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), on approved credit. Representative bi-weekly finance examples: based on a 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) models on an 84 // 84 // 84 month term with 182 // 182 // 182 bi-weekly payments at 1.99% // 1.99% // 3.99% APR and $1,600 // $2,395 // $1,750 Finance incentive and $0 // $0 // $200 customer incentive and $431 // $0 // $0 individual dealer contribution deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Finance incentive applies only to Finance contracts through HFS. Finance incentive, customer incentive and individual dealer contribution can be combined with subvented rates of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. Complete price of $16,970 // $27,765 // $25,765 [includes $1,495 // $1,640 // $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C levy ($100 except Civic DX), and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes taxes, license, insurance, and registration]. Cost of borrowing is $1,077.28 // $1,829.20 // $3,519.44 for a total finance obligation of $16,016.28 // $27,199.20 // $27,334.44. $0 // $0 // $0 down payment required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. ^Limited time 0.99% APR lease offers on a new 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) for a maximum of 24 // 24 // 24 // 36 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $471.21 [includes $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C levy ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $11,309.04. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. ˇReceive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) models for a maximum of 24 // 48 // 24 // 48 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative finance example: based on a 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) on a 48 month term at 0.99% APR and complete price of $27,765 [includes $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C levy ($100) and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes taxes, license, insurance, and registration], the monthly payment is $590.20. Cost of borrowing is $564.60 for a total finance obligation of $28,329.60. Down payment or equivalent trade-in on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. *Bi-weekly lease available on all 2013 Honda models on 48 and 60-month terms only. ◆$4,000 // $4,000 // $3,000 // $2,500 // $2,000 // $1,500 // $1,000 // $500 customer cash incentive is valid on any new 2013 Honda Pilot // 2013 Honda Odyssey // 2013 Honda Ridgeline // 2013 Honda CR-V (except LX 2WD, model RM3H3DES) // 2013 Honda Crosstour // 2013 Honda Accord Coupe and Sedan (except LX Sedan 6MT, model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Civic Coupe and Sedan (except DX Sedan, model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Fit (except DX, model GE8G2DEX) models when registered and delivered between July 3rd and July 31st, 2013. Cash incentive is available for all Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through Honda Financial Services Inc. at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. **Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012.